



Senate presidency still anybody's game—None

By TJ Burgeño
and Juliet
Labog-Javelina

IN THE HEAT FOR THE Senate presidency, Senate President Franklin Drilon and Sen. Manuel "Manny" Villar Jr. should not discount the votes of



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

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Childless couples to join Obando fertility rites today

By Carmina Reyes
PNA General Liza Dela

OWANDO, BULACAN—ARROYO FARMINGS, AT 34, has been longing for a child and would have wanted to celebrate Mother's Day on Sunday with a baby in her arms.

Reynolds has been married for five years but

CHILDRITZ 31

Military, Reds linked to slays of 38 leftists

But Razon says no sign of gov't crackdown

By Lope A. del Puerto

A POLICE TASK FORCE yesterday tagged soldiers and paramilitary forces as suspects in the murder of 25 political activists, and said 13 other killings might have been the result of a purge within the communist ranks.

"They were among the 122 names of killings of political activists recorded since 1980, when President Macapagal-Arroyo assumed power, according to data released in media by the newly created Task Force Ulat."

Deputy Director General Jovito Razon Jr., task force head, said one other killing of a militant warrior was the result of an encounter between government forces and the communist New People's Army.

The end of the cases were still being investigated, he said.

An Razon tally showed 123 activists have been killed during the five years of the Arroyo presidency.

Militant groups have blamed government forces for the killing of their members while the military has declined responsibility, saying many of the slain activists could have been killed by their own comrades as part of a new purge within the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Asked if his data confirmed allegations of a military crackdown on leftists, Razon said:

"No, I'd like to think that they are just suspected of involvement. It's not an outright indication that the military or paramilitary groups are involved."

He said blaming the military for most of the killings was a "distortion."

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EARTH BEAUTIES
Catherine Urdaneta (center), newly crowned Miss Philippines-Earth, is flanked by (from left) Katrina Rigata, Miss Philippines-Water; Ginger Canepa, Miss Philippines-Air; Francis Dizon-Corvera, Miss Philippines-Fire, and Rosita Samonte, Miss Philippines-Ecosystems. The coronation rites were held Sunday at the UP Theater in Diliman, Quezon City. (See story in Metro, Page A17)

DAR to use military, police vs resisting landowners

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED to rely on police and military in implementing the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program in areas where there is armed resistance by landowners, the Department of Agrarian Reform said.

"The AFP and PNP will support

the DAR in the installation of farm beneficiaries if an armed resistance of landowners is involved," Undersecretary Ernesto Cruz said in an interview.

The DAR is leading an intensive task force created last week to address the cases of violence, harassment and killings in

the implementation of the CARP. The task force includes the AFP, PNP, Department of Justice and the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

Peasant groups also attended the task force's first meeting on May 12.

The Penumbra Agrarian rg

groups representing Lakas ng Pagpapaligaya in Kapanaganan (Lakap) said the DAR had asked the police to conduct a list of protesters who landowners were harassing, farm beneficiaries and blocking the CARP implementation.

Umbra and Task Force Mapal

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

GMA cuts tariff on crude oil imports

By GFC Cabacungan Jr.

IN EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 527, the Arroyo administration has reduced from 3 percent to between 2 and 3 percent depending on "trigger levels" as set by the Department of Energy in coordination with the Finance and Trade Department.

"The automatic tariff mechan-

ism, based on certain triggers linked to international oil prices, would reduce the impact of high and rising world prices on the economy and the consuming public without necessarily draining government resources," Ma Arroyo said in her order signed Friday.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

she said the oil tariff would be lowered to 3 percent once international prices moved below the trigger price levels.

The executive order would be in effect over six months, subject to government review.

Ma Arroyo issued the order

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Peso back to 52-level vs US dollar

By Dennis C. Durbin
Bureau

THE PESO YESTERDAY TUMBLED back to the 52 level against the US dollar as imports remained to hold up their dollar reserves ahead of the import season in the third quarter and foreign investors cashed out of local equities and government securities.

At the Philippine Dollar System, the peso closed at its 10th-day low of 52.15 to the dollar after opening at 51.82, shedding a hefty 44 centavos from its Friday's high of 51.73. It was the peso's weakest slide since the currency closed at 52.20 on Feb. 24.

Total value traded at the Philippine Dollar System on Monday amounted to a hefty \$872.46 million.

Monetary firm, chief currency dealer in Equitable PCI Bank, said imports had started flying down this early to pay for shipments expected in the third quarter.

After explained that imports

Volunteer moms take care of special kids

By Blanche S. Rivera

SPECIAL KIDS NEED SPECIAL

mothers. The Kapanaganan ng mga Magulang ng mga Bata ng Kapanaganan (KMBG) is a volunteer group of some 20 women who take care of special children and, sometimes, even their parents.

The women themselves are mothers to differently-abled children like politically correct term for the disabled.

For the past four years, they have been quietly teaching on

doors of households in Marikina City to find special children who are neglected due to either the indifference or poverty of their parents.

"It's in our hearts to help because our children are also disabled. We know how it feels," volunteer mother Gloria Ibañez said.

The 15-year-old daughter is deaf and they communicate by sign language.

Mendosa shares with the 15-year-old her shock, despair and, eventually, her coming to terms



SPECIAL child Jerry Gonzalez enjoys a therapy session with volunteers of the Kapanaganan ng mga Magulang ng mga Bata ng Kapanaganan-Gilda Mendosa, Maybeth Cruz and Rosita and Jean Gonzalez.

VOLUNTEER 31

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WEATHER FORECAST
 12:00 PM: Rainy with 40 to 50% chance of rain
 3:00 PM: Rainy with 40 to 50% chance of rain
 6:00 PM: Rainy with 40 to 50% chance of rain
 9:00 PM: Rainy with 40 to 50% chance of rain

Second FRONT PAGE

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HERE WE GO AGAIN

New impeachment case set vs GMA

By Philip C. Salinas

THE NEW IMPEACHMENT COMPLAINT AGAINST President Macapagal-Arroyo will be ready by the end of the month and could include the spate of killings of leftists, activists and acts of the administration recently, an opposition leader said yesterday.

House Minority Leader Francisco Arduña told a news conference that the impeachment case would be announced this week, as Congress resumes its session, and from his Bayan Libre party. Arduña would include the impeachment case in the House of Representatives.

Arduña said the complaint would be filed "at the latest" during President Macapagal-Arroyo's State-of-the-Nation Address on July 21.

"It does not add to the complexity, there would be about the killings of leftists and human rights abuses and the Supreme Court decision about the abuse of power of President Arroyo these events," he said.

"There would be under the category of human rights abuses at the very least," he added. Arduña said that some of the witnesses had left but the opposition has found new ones who could testify on the election fraud that occurred "right in the heart of the Representatives."

"Those who left were not afraid. They were supposed to give only supporting or collaborative testimony. The primary testimony is still there, and they continue to insist that their testimonies are what happened during the last election," he added.

Arduña said that there was a consensus among House members that those among whom they would not support the President's impeachment should support the case.

"Each member of the minority should support the impeachment (complaint) that we will file. There will be no longer a



SECURED

main with the minority," Arduña said. "We have the freedom to choose if we want to be with the majority or the minority. That is what we are going to make clear now."

Arduña said that the members of the House majority should not decide the new complaint now before they have read it.

"I hope they and President Arroyo will see that it is an opportunity not just for her but for the country to get over the current political crisis," he said.

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We're ready, say Palace allies

Administration poised to smother new impeachment try

By Michael Lee Llanera

PRO-ADMINISTRATION LEGAL COUNSEL said yesterday they will lead the majority and were ready to smother a new attempt to impeach President Macapagal-Arroyo which members of the opposition said they plan to launch next month.

Rep. Francisco Pichay Jr., Anito Miranda and Douglas Capar said that the opposition did not have the numbers, nor the support of the people to impeach the president.

"They say to buy it with kidnapping, they're ready and willing to go against the majority, but we are also prepared to do our own business," said Pichay, adding that the majority would only defeat any impeachment.

The elected House Minority Leader Francis Iñiguez said the majority would support the impeachment.

"This shows it is an attack on the majority of the House, especially



POKEY

those opposition members who lead the impeachment motion that has just been filed in the House," he said.

Arduña said that the majority would support the impeachment.

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GADAM

he demands to fail," he said.

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which this time, they should think about an entire new complaint, since those they submitted last year were already rejected by the House," he added.

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Senators vow to pass long-delayed P1.053-T budget early next month

By TI Buggio

SENATORS HAVE DECIDED TO MOVE EARLY to pass the long-delayed P1.053-T bill budget measure in the first week of June.

Majority Leader Francis Iñiguez said the House has agreed to pass the bill by June 1, 2006, at 10:00 a.m.

"We will work double time to pass the budget," he said.

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give full attention to seven major bills, including the budget, between now and all June sessions.

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Malacañang stands by its man at BIR

By GIC Cabanogian

MALACAÑANG IS STANDING BY ITS MAN at the Bureau of Internal Revenue despite a P70-billion shortfall in its collections in April brought about by the stoppage in tax collection.

"We should not judge the BIR on just one month's performance. What is important is that we observe its revenue collection over a longer period," said President Macapagal-Arroyo's economic adviser who has called for a resumption of the BIR's work.

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the BIR said yesterday as collections dropped sharply due to taxpayers' claims of higher creditable withholding taxes of P7.2 billion, the collection of last year's minimum corporate income tax of P7.1 billion, decrease in payments of final withholding taxes (P7.1 billion), and decrease in sales and gross receipts (P7.1 billion).

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Gonzalez orders NBI to probe Erap's reported fund laundering

LA MESA HOUSING ROW Senate asked to look into execs' houses

By Arnold N. Novicio

JUSTICE SECRETARY ROLAND GONZALEZ yesterday ordered the National Bureau of Investigation to look into reports that retired President Joseph Estrada could have laundered part of the "missing" P1.2 billion Asia World account through a check account under the name of former beauty queen Estrada.

"I think the story is worth looking into, considering the amount involved. It seems to fit with the account involved in the plunder case of the Sandoz/Erasmio," said Gonzalez, referring to the trial of Estrada who is accused of illegally receiving more than P4 billion from gambling payoffs and subsequent kickbacks.



ESTRADA



PELAEZ



GONZALEZ

Gonzalez added, however, that even if the laundered funds were proven to be part of the Estrada account, the alleged money laundering would not be included in the ongoing plunder case as the plunder case has already reached its final stage.

Special Prosecutor Jesus Villagracia confirmed this, but said prosecutors still have the related period to try to introduce the case. Villagracia threatened that the P500 million allegedly laundered through the account recently belonging to Julie Marie Briones (JMB), would cause up to the 1000 Philippine housing units, could be part of the Estrada account.

"The P1.2 billion missing account suddenly came up at about the same time," Villagracia said of the alleged Estrada account that disappeared before the impeachment trial of Estrada started in 2006.

Estrada denied the allegations and said they were a ploy to divert the public's attention from the "missing defense" he was putting up for the trial.

Estrada said the allegations that the allegations were part of a smear campaign against him and his lawyers were up to the government, which he described as capable of obstructing the credibility of the law. Estrada said the allegations were part of a smear campaign against him and his lawyers were up to the government, which he described as capable of obstructing the credibility of the law.

Asked if he would be counter-attacking against Pelaez, Estrada replied, "No, sir."

Asked if the Manila Standard reported that, why is the United States, he said that the transaction, which involved money transfers and the acquisition and sale of funds and assets, were not his but were carried out through a United Coconut Planters Bank account under her name. He said she has filed a P100-million lawsuit against those who said her name and reputation against her transactions.

"Let me see, there might be a paper trail leading to the plunder case so it could be an entirely different account. Whereas, it only proves what we're saying they have a lot of money," Villagracia said of Estrada and his lawyers.

According to Manila Standard, M. Manzano is investigating the matter.

Gonzalez pointed out that the alleged money laundering involved government funds and even is asked by a government-ordered bank.

"I am asking you to investigate these allegations, starting with all these names mentioned in the article, in coordination with the Special Attorney General and in return, your report will be given to your investigation in this office," Gonzalez said.

"We can't just break aside this story," Gonzalez said in an interview. "Before discussing these details, it's a fact-based story," he said. Gonzalez said he would send his people to check the matter out in the US, but he said it would be unlikely that they would be able to get into the matter.

"It's not that they can't get into the matter, it's that they can't get into the matter," he said.

By R. Barrios

A MEMBER ORGANIZATION of the Senate La Mesa Town Council wants a congressional panel to look into the construction of a housing project for executives of the Metropolitan Waterworks Engineering System (MWES) in the La Mesa watershed.

A joint Senate and House panel, chaired by Sen. Flo Cuayayan, wants to inquire into the project and whether it is for MWES employees that was expected earlier by the coalition and house bills, AS6-036 (House) and Senate Bill 1000 (Senate).

The project is a 100-unit housing project in the La Mesa watershed. It is a 100-unit housing project in the La Mesa watershed. It is a 100-unit housing project in the La Mesa watershed.

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The National Housing Council was on a clean sweep, and MWES Administrator Orlando Rodas would be asked to shed light on the matter for the construction.

House and Senate have received the project in the context of the project under construction.

A Committee on Anti-Corruption and House and Senate should investigate why they had a broad construction of the project, which is much closer to the watershed and is now almost ready for occupancy.

The committee should also investigate why they had a broad construction of the project, which is much closer to the watershed and is now almost ready for occupancy.

58% AGREE

"The members of the opposition against Pres. Arroyo should start helping to improve the country and stop too much politics."

AGREE:	58%
UNDECIDED:	24%
DISAGREE:	18%

*Based on data collected from 1,000 respondents

First Quarter Social Weather Report: March 6-14, 2008 National Survey

As of today, 8.9 million Filipines from various sectors of society have signed the proposal to amend the Philippine Constitution. This initiative proposes a unicameral parliamentary system of government that will foster economic growth and social development.

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Military, Reds linked to slays of 38 leftists

Foreigner-A1
"They're going to kill them (the military) to come out and give evidence in testimony," he added.
"What would the military do that they and the military would, even the police, but they don't suspect them," he said.

No conclusions yet
But Ramos warned his group had not come to any definite conclusion.
"There are suspicions... and not only right individuals that military or possibly some are involved," he said.
A review of the case revealed some of the suspects were believed to be members of particular security units.
Ramos also faulted investigators for not going to the case and that in the past, the task force could not conduct the killings more "because of... arrested."
Ramos and the task force were also looking over the suspected killings of some people, politicians and government employees and was thinking of offering rewards for information that would lead to the solution of the case.

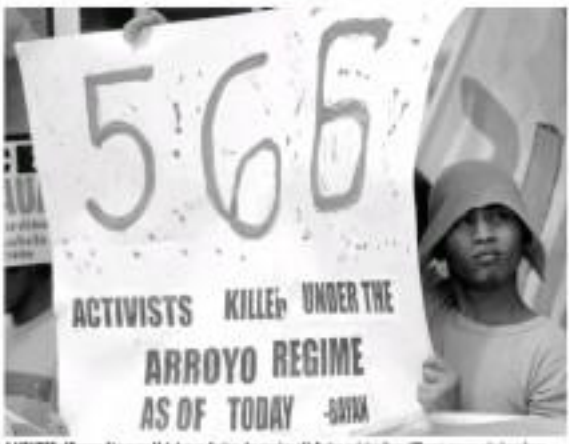
Lack of witnesses
Ramos' system had helped the police to get the case and Ramos hoped they would receive "evidence into coming out with full confidence."
He said many of the cases could not move forward for lack of witnesses and this was one of the key problems still facing the task force.
One case the task force had arrested showed that the death of a Bayan Muna member was the result of a "legitimate" encounter between the fifth and government forces.

Ramos said Pinarol de las Torres died when his group encountered Army and Marines (Oct. 8, 2001), in Marikina City.

Victims of purge
He also said other party members who the police said were killed as a result of a communist purge, they included a Bayan Muna member killed in May 2004, the police had said.

According to disclosures, "unauthorized" reports indicated that the victim had been a subject of numerous rights of armed forces, including foreign funds, he said.
The list also included Pinarol de las Torres, a Bayan Muna member, who was killed during a March 2000 clash in Baguio City between the so-called rebels and government forces within the communist movement.

Digging further
Ramos said the task force would dig further to see if there was a connection



A MEMBER of Baguig Alyanung Makabayan displays the members of leftwing activists from different groups who have been killed since 2000 during a rally in front of St. Peter's Church in Quezon City.

between the rift within the communist movement and the killings.
"A lot of their members (previously) had been victims of them," he said, citing the purge in the communist movement in the 1980s.
The police had said the list of the circumstances behind the 38 cases of killings supposedly involving military and paramilitary units.

Ramos rejected speculation of a white-wash in the investigation of possible military involvement.

No whitewash
"On the contrary, we will not put it down (to the left) ... we will not minimize any suspected military or paramilitary units (if the case is in-whitewash the investigation)," he said.
Ramos said the task force would try to coordinate with the party-led groups to solve the case.
"If the investigation is in whitewash, why would the police say in talk to these groups, he said.
Ramos dismissed suggestions that the tactics of the killings of women and

politicians in the work of the task force would drive away from the killings of political activists.

The task force, he said, would simply "uncover and integrate" the efforts of different police units.

Mostly from Bayan Muna
Ramospano have taken the majority of two victims in the killing of Jose Wicardillo, Bayan Muna-Cagayan Valley member, and his partner, Roderic Ralano, in Isabela last week, Ramos said.

The National Bureau of Investigation in the region has composed a list of sketches of the groups.
"Initially reported by the task force on the killings of party members since 2000, described 38 of them took place in Misamis (Mindanao, Marikina, Cebu and Iloilo).
The killings clearly targeted a group of activists, mainly those from Bayan Muna, which has shown representation in Congress, and Andapang, which has two congressmen.
Thirty-two individuals formed the mem-

ber of Bayan Muna members with 22 had been involved in the killing of Andapang members, the police had shown.

Orison targeted, too
In two instances, members of Gabriela were targeted. In other words, the targets belonged to other activist groups.
"One have been filed in court by 15 percent of the individuals who had said we will make investigation."

Ramos Muna, Marikina and Gabriela belonged to the so-called frontlines of the initial movement which split up in the early 2000s.
Data from Baguig Alyanung Makabayan showed that 43 of its members had been killed since the forces started purge.

'Worst man-made disaster'
Quoting the human rights group, Ramos said the "systematic" destruction of activists had caused the loss of 38 people since 2001. They figures have been submitted to United Nations Human Rights Council.
"This is the single worst man-made disaster that has happened five years and six months since to this day. The extent and mag-

CPP purge ongoing, says Puno

By Herman Bordinada

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE has accused the Communist Party of engaging purge in the communist movement and this may have resulted in the deaths of some members of legal allies, Interior Secretary Rodrigo Duterte said yesterday.

Puno said a police task force looking into the suspected killings of some leaders had included this angle as an investigation because of information that the Communist Party of the Philippines may be choosing its mode of representation.

"There are links among, and just historical data," he said.
Puno said the task force would also have to follow leads, such as the possible involvement of the military and its officers with activities not connected to political ideology.

"We are investigating them in the involvement of members of the military, then they'll be appropriately charged," he said. "But before the investigation is finished, he is not making any conclusion."
"I don't think it's the task force to make the proper recommendations," Puno said.

The activist Baguig Alyanung Makabayan expressed disgust over the police's investigation into the deaths of communist leaders.

"It is incredibly foolish and malicious to blame so-called CPP purges for these deaths, it is purely ideological in doing the police in the killing of activists," said Ramos Muna, a Bayan Muna member.

Ramos said by the earlier announcement that the killings were the result of government forces, death squads," he said. With reports from Emilio T. Muelan Jr., PH Southern Luzon Area, and Ray Bordinada.

GMA cuts tariff on crude oil imports

Foreign-A1
Three days before Congress is set to vote on a measure to raise the tariff on oil imports.

Tariff increases through executive order are only allowed when Congress is in recess. Otherwise, adjustments in duties would require congressional action.
Malacanan Palace is not the only tariff rates that support the 12 percent value-added tax (VAT) on oil because of the latter's higher impact on revenue collection.

Foreign buyers also started negotiating to the idea of a 102 reduction, according to the Manila-based target to reduce the national

budget by 2008 could be authorized.

No relief for the poor
Mr. Arroyo's economic adviser, Mr. Miguel, says that, while cutting oil tariffs would hardly ease the impact of rising oil prices on the working class, whose labor costs may have been reduced by last year's increase in taxes.

"The move to cut oil tariffs against the administration's success on the impact of rising oil prices but this is not enough because it is inevitable that we should support the oil VAT cut

prices normally," said Ramos.

He suggested that the oil tax be transferred and Duterte as the oil VAT be reduced to an 80 percent level for the oil companies would not be charged the VAT.

Capital imports
Mr. Arroyo also agreed to cut VAT which would give duty-free access to capital equipment, says

partners and companies involved in and expanding enterprises registered with the Invest in Philippines.

At present, only 600 companies

is operating inside economic zones and foreign enjoy the privileges.

The capital equipment and spare parts eligible for zero-rated should not have been considered locally but not in sufficient quantity, if made local and they should be "locally sourced and made in-house by companies."

More competition
Companies that profit from the oil industry have been accused of lobbying to keep the oil VAT at 10 percent.

The move is expected to add more competition about the rising cost of doing business in the Philippines. Reducing the oil VAT rate would lower the cost of doing business for the poor rate would lower any price increases on their goods and services through their doing more oil prices.

The country's economic managers have said that raising the tariff on imported petroleum products from, say, 12 to 15 percent would slash pump prices by as much as 20 percent.

They believe that a tariff rate reduction would not result in any foreign revenue because the cost increase from the tariff reduction would be offset by the higher duty collection resulting from the increase in oil prices.

Finance Undersecretary Joaquin has said that while crude oil imports are valued at P1.5 billion by P2.5 billion by every one percentage point rise in tariff, revenues would also increase by P1 billion for every 1% increase in the price of oil imports.

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Time: 9:00PM	

DAR to use military, police against resisting landowners

From page 1:

On a recent group of about 100 people, identified as last week the protesters of Rio, Negros Oriental and Baguig Duterte and the New Luzon, where the family of Comandante Reyes made one of the most

and an armed personnel sent from the AFP, surrounded the last armed resistance of farmers on a CARP land in 1998, allowing 75 families to occupy the 151 hectares of land awarded to them despite landowner opposition in Marikina, Quezon.

Move to assure farmers

Agriculture Secretary Antonio P. Quinsion admitted it is a price to pay for CARP implementation. Last week, that the memorandum of agreement between the DAR and the JPR stating that the department could not make the price to be applied to carrying out the CARP had not been implemented on the ground.

One said that the impact of the AFP and JPR to be CARP implementation was also a way for the new agencies to ensure the farmers of their support and to take care of some of the poorest farmers who were concerned by the military or police identity landowners.

Most of the remaining lands to be covered by CARP are considered as "uncovered" by the landowners, some have been and some have not been covered by the landowners.

Members that the farmers' presence in the CARP landowners, which even CARP officials had been denied, and undersecretary for Marikina, were aware. They shared the list of these other issues that had to be resolved.

MOL 360 farmers targeted

Undersecretary for Legal Affairs, Mr. Arroyo recently said that the landowners of the Philippines should be targeted by the "service" of the CARP, but should not be allowed any of the CARP landowners.

The department has to place 600,000 hectares more of private lands under CARP by 2008, the deadline for the land acquisition and distribution by the Department of Agrarian Reform.

plus **METRO**
Editor: Ben-G. Degen

Valerie Foster-C. Ogburn

[illegible]

Number coding phaseout looms

Plan to affect 3 Metro Manila cities



ICIMH has this weeky happens in three Maine cities which have experienced a permanent closing of the tourism industry at home.

The Kentucky M. Schaefer

IT WAS DISAPPOINTING IN WHAT PARTS OF Metro Manila during the summer, but the United Way's *Waglaan* Welfare Initiative Program (UWVIP), also known as the number coding scheme, may be phased out for good in some cities.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chair Ramon Fernandez yesterday said he was looking into the possibility of lifting the IVVPS to certain areas located at the periphery of the metropolis, as requested by their officials.

He said the mayors of Malibu, Thousand Oaks and Santa Monica have asked him to strengthen them from the outside, ending subsidies as residential traffic was not that heavy in their ar-

The UVWV is not being implemented in the cities of Pinar and Matanzas because being in the fringe of the metropolitan both areas are not prone to heavy traffic.

Under the DVDRG, vehicles are banned from access not on the road on a permanent basis.

of the week, depending on the last digit of their business phone.

"We are seriously considering removing that to particular sites," Perreault told reporters at the Kaplan in Manila. "I will present the idea to the Metro Manila Council when we meet this month."

The Council, which is a governing institution, is composed of members of the 17 cities and municipalities in the metropolitan area. It approves ordinances and resolutions affecting the whole of Metro-Manila.

The IIRMA suspended the UNWFP in Mexico, Manila, except for Manila City from April 25 to June 1, on the premise that since there were no changes, it could afford to allow more who due to go out on the road without drastically changing traffic flow.

Temple said that without the number riding in some cities, vehicle owners used no carpool during the rush hour, the period when vehicles banned from traveling for their day could still go on to be used.

The window hours are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. except on the days of Matsuri and Tsuri.

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Navy Inspector General's fact-finding mission ended

* Swiss brand Full-excess
based steel in garage



Statuesque psychology grad crowned Miss RP-Earth

By [BrennanFennell](#)

NORRIS INFANT CONTENDS CATHEDRAL
Gustafson proved that height is an advantage in the final 22 when he hit the Miss Philippines Earth crown in a strenuous hold-up game pitted IV Theatre in Queens City last Sunday.

The University of the Philippines, was the tallest candidate at six feet. She was crowned by outgoing queen Gertrudis Reagan, who herself was the tallest candidate in her batch last year on 5 feet 10.

When asked how she wanted to be buried, internationally United said she hoped "to be the first Filipino to be pronounced this last."²

No Olympic games has ever been in the international paper's 47-year history. It will be held outside the Philippines for the first

this year, Chile will be the host country for the 2006 heavy metal regional. The project aims to preserve and conserve the landscape of Mollin Bata.

Caused fear in Ginger Conyers, who represented the Filipino community in the United States, was proclaimed *Mata Philippines*. *Ata*, the pagant's equivalent of last name or, after war, also this.

That year, regional organizer Catherine Proctor wrote a pamphlet for the committee to announce the program, designed when she learned its other parts.

Compton, who holds a political science degree from the University of Southern California, was awarded Miss Flower Filipino-American in 2006.

Saxena *Nigra* played steel and was renamed Miss Philippines/West. General Lee's Francis Dorian Gervasio was Miss Philippines/Fire (South) *place*, while a really shocked Bryan Gormanson, who came all the way from Canada, was Miss Philippines/Sea.

The winners were selected by an all-star, no-judging panel which included Singapore's "Tiger" Chongwen, fashion designer Laili Teo-Gun, international theater performer Iray Alvarez, former beauty queen/actress Elaine Poon, Mary Lim and Michelle Khoo, sportsman Teo Liew and poetry editor

Other favorites were Southern Tagalog's Puth street Mercado, Best in Southwest: Jampalun Bupirun, Best in Long Green: Mayan Mochon's Christmas Lane, Best

The program started with a visual spectacle as the screens and cameras on display with

Video jack Olesh Ramsey stated having



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Climate change seen killing millions in Africa

LONDON—ORANGE SPREADS OF global warming could kill an estimated 145 million people in sub-Saharan Africa by the end of the century and reduce nations' food and water security, a report said on Monday.

Greenland had said such development could lead to soil that is too dry to grow crops and that the world's major food and water security will be under threat by the end of the century, the report said.

With countries still taking responsibility for the problem, largely caused by the burning of fossil fuels, the report said, the world's major food and water security will be under threat by the end of the century, the report said.

Climate change is also likely to cause droughts and floods, the report said, and the world's major food and water security will be under threat by the end of the century, the report said.

What scientists agree on is that global warming is due to burning of fossil fuels for transport and power, and more rainforests are being cut down by U.S. export of soybeans in the 20th century, global temperatures could rise by 2.5°C.

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Fresh violence kills 19 in Sri Lanka

COLUMBO—AT LEAST 19 PEOPLE have been killed in fresh violence in Sri Lanka, officials said Sunday, as Tamil Tigers seized a "base" to display their army even though some members say it is a civilian.

Thirteen of the victims were killed in the northern town of Kumbukkan, the military said. Two more people were killed in the eastern town of Kumbukkan, the military said.

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Indonesia's Mount Merapi erupts with hot gas, ash

MOUNT MERAPI, INDONESIA—Indonesia's Mount Merapi erupted with clouds of hot gas and ash Sunday, sending some nearby villages who had been ordered to leave searching for safety.

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No militarization along border, Bush assures Mexico

WASHINGTON—U.S. PRESIDENT George W. Bush said Sunday that the United States would not militarize the border with Mexico, a statement that was seen as a sign of U.S. support for Mexico's efforts to control drug trafficking.

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Chad's Deby clinches new term

NDAMBA—CHAD'S PRESIDENT Idriss Deby won a second term in Sunday's elections with 71.5 percent of the vote, a result that was seen as a sign of U.S. support for Chad's efforts to control drug trafficking.

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That Southwest attendant may be a millionaire

BALLUS—BY EARNER INC. Mike Mitchell, a Southwest Airlines attendant, has been named one of the world's richest people, a result that was seen as a sign of U.S. support for Southwest's efforts to control drug trafficking.

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Couples flock to US for luxury of being able to pick baby's sex

PHILADELPHIA—A growing number of couples are flocking to the United States to have a baby, a result that was seen as a sign of U.S. support for the country's efforts to control drug trafficking.

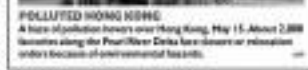
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POLLUTED HONG KONG. A huge pollution plume over Hong Kong, May 15. About 2,000 visitors along the Four Seasons Hotel have been ordered to leave because of pollution.

The World

Editor Lawrence B. Sweeney

WHO: 3,300 die daily in West Pacific

MANILA—THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION on Monday said it was alarmed by figures showing that over 3,300 people in the Western Pacific region die daily of road traffic accidents, suicide, drowning and other injury-related deaths.

The WHO said in a statement that an estimated five million people die every year worldwide

from injury-related deaths, including 1.2 million annually in the Western Pacific region—or

nearly 3,300 deaths daily.

The Western Pacific covers 45 countries and territories including Australia, the Pacific island countries, Japan, Korea, India, Bangladesh and the Philippines.

The major injury-related causes of deaths in the region are suicide, which claims 242,000 lives yearly; road traffic

accidents, which kill 282,000; and drowning, with 171,000 deaths. The WHO said in the statement, adding that it was "alarmed by the magnitude of the problem."

It stated that road traffic injuries and suicides could each among the top 10 causes of deaths worldwide by 2020.

It, however, is not a good approach

it is no longer acceptable," said Dr. Margaret White, WHO's Western Pacific regional director. "We, as public health professionals, need to address the causes of injuries and injury-related deaths in partnership with other sectors and organizations."

The WHO opened a meeting of national experts in Manila on Monday to discuss future direc-

tions for injury and violence prevention programs.

She stressed the need to take public awareness and appeal to political leaders for measures needed to address the problem.

"We must build our institutions to carry out better measures to meet the challenges of injury and violence prevention," she said.

40 killed in Iraq bloodshed; PM to unveil Cabinet

BAGDAAD—FORTY BOMBS WERE killed in a day of bloodshed Monday, including suicide bombings at an airport, a shopping mall and a market.

At least 40 people were killed and 100 wounded in a series of suicide bombings in Baghdad Tuesday night, according to a statement from the Iraqi government.

The statement said the bombings were carried out by "terrorist groups" and "aimed at the Iraqi people and the Iraqi government."

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the checkpoints, the 10 military said in a statement, adding that the attacks did not target the Iraqi people.

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press people for these jobs," he said.

An MP from Malawi's own Democratic Progressive Party, Kenneth Chitanga, had already raised the possibility of the premier's decision keeping some parliament in his own hands as he fails to finalize a Cabinet

longer than 14 hours.

But the premier is not the only one to give a response from one of the analysts here in his Malawi United News Africa, which mentioned that it was doubtful if the list on which it sought Chitanga's

performance would be.

"We don't have a list," said Chitanga at a press conference, but the Malawi party, which holds 13 of the 150 seats in the 275-seat parliament.

"Even if they give us the list, we will not accept it," he said.

The party held the old list in the outgoing government but says it is not the only one to give a response from one of the analysts here in his Malawi United News Africa, which mentioned that it was doubtful if the list on which it sought Chitanga's

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AMBASSADOR in Jerusalem, the Israeli ambassador, speaking at a podium.

Assaults on Brazil cops leave 52 dead

SÃO PAULO—AT LEAST 52 PEOPLE, including 15 police officers, have been killed after a second night of widespread gang attacks on police stations across the northeastern state of São Paulo, Brazilian media say.

The northeastern onslaught against police stations and barracks has left 14 suspected attackers and three bystanders dead and another 52 people injured, including 20 police officers, six officers and eight bystanders, they said.

Since last Friday, more than 130 attacks have been launched by the gang, in Brazil's most populous state, in apparent reprisal for the murder of a police officer in a high-security prison, officials said.

In the same time, scores of people have been taken hostage in operations in at least 15 prisons of the state's 344 prisons.

The São Paulo prison system has said about 142 inmates have been taken in the past 48 hours, including police officers.

Police said they had put down more than 15 prime suspects and had arrested about 93 people taken hostage in the state's prisons.

São Paulo state also has one of Brazil's highest prison populations, with some 125,000 inmates.

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has ordered his São Paulo Gov. Celso de Figueiredo to take steps to restore order, but Lula believes the situation is being brought under control and he will be declared any situation, according to a GPHC report.

Lula, who is currently visiting Chicago-Late American station in Texas, Austin, said Brazilian that more solid measures were needed to effect such situation. AFP



NO BLOODSPOT HERE—IT'S A COWHIT: "Shane" (left) and "Duke" (right) were brought to the scene of the attack on the Queen's head in London, Britain. The cow, a white bull, was the one that killed the man.

After attacks, UK eyes lessons on 'core values'

LONDON—BRITAIN IS CONSIDERING introducing compulsory lessons on "core values" for children in response to last July's racist bomb attacks in London, the government said on Monday.

Education Minister Nick Brown said a six-month review would examine whether all 11 to 15-year-olds should be taught about issues such as freedom of speech, civil responsibility and democracy and how to handle hate speech.

The proposal comes in response to the attacks on London.

On July 7 when four British buses and one tram and 12 commuters were killed in the bombings.

Lessons about the government's policies on the bombings that were carried out by four British citizens.

When we look at what happened with the bombings last July, when people were prepared to kill themselves in order to kill others, I think education can play a role in helping to get a better sense of what are the core values that we as a society should have.

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Israel kills 7 in West Bank raids

JERUSALEM—WEST BANK—ISRAELI troops killed seven Palestinians in a series of raids in the West Bank on Monday, the Israeli military said.

The raids were part of a series of operations aimed at reducing the number of attacks on Israeli civilians.

The Israeli military said that the attacks were carried out by "terrorist groups" and "aimed at the Israeli people and the Israeli government."

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Preval sworn in as Haiti president

PORT-AU-PRINCE—RENÉ PREVAL, a 65-year-old politician, was sworn in as president of Haiti on Monday, two years after a referendum and the end of the long dictatorship of Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

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TV channels riding on 'signature shows'

PEOPLE WHO THINK THAT ABC 5 could be spending \$200 million to produce "Philippine Idol" show may think that's an extremely huge amount of money, but network staffers would disagree.

Aside from the policy booklet he put for production to come up with the show's content, "Philippine Idol" show producers don't have a "signature" show that can be used to boost the channel's image, appeal to niche, and promote to niche programming.

By that standard, PTV's station has to be huge in investment in a niche.

The network's "signature" shows are not as big as ABC 5's, and they're not as "signature" as ABC 5's, and they're not as "signature" as ABC 5's.

These programs are popular in their own right, but they aren't as big as ABC 5's, and they're not as "signature" as ABC 5's, and they're not as "signature" as ABC 5's.

It's hard to say, but ABC 5's "signature" shows are not as big as ABC 5's, and they're not as "signature" as ABC 5's, and they're not as "signature" as ABC 5's.

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There are no other local talent shows on TV that are as big as ABC 5's, and they're not as "signature" as ABC 5's, and they're not as "signature" as ABC 5's.

The major difference has to be the exceptionally high level of audience interest and potential audience size that the show can attract.

How does this happen? Aside from the show's high production value, the show's audience is not as big as ABC 5's, and they're not as "signature" as ABC 5's, and they're not as "signature" as ABC 5's.

By the way, the "Philippine Idol" show is not as big as ABC 5's, and they're not as "signature" as ABC 5's, and they're not as "signature" as ABC 5's.

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ENTERTAINMENT



2014 Lakes, Emily Blunt and Matt Damon star in "The Way, Way Back"

All splash, no substance

In this remake of the 1972 disaster classic, the characters make sympathy nearly impossible.

But that you're looking for such a story in an underwater blockbuster just seems to be a little weird. After all, the effects are so big and shiny and slick they often look completely fake. The same computer-generated pseudo-reality is stretched, muted, repeated, though, between two scenes: a surreal sequence of characters, which by now seems to be the opening line of the first of "The Way, Way Back."

It is, in fact, so much so that it seems a special-features bonus (see the special features).

NEW YORK—LONG BEFORE THE BIG screen hit in "The Way, Way Back," the first sign of trouble comes from looking at the cast list. Jeff Bridges, Matt Damon, Emily Blunt, and others are listed as the main cast.

But it would be helpful to see what happens when you see these strange characters in a disaster movie. The first sign of trouble comes from looking at the cast list.

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Tom plays Cruise all over again



NEW YORK—TOM CRUISE IS SO MUCH more than just a talented actor and the father of a new Hollywood hero.

Tom Cruise and Michelle Monaghan

Tom Cruise and Michelle Monaghan

Summer Movie Treat

BEAT the HEAT at the MOVIES

2 movie tickets for the price of 1

APRIL 16 to MAY 16

ANY MOVIE

Mon-Fri 5-10 PM (except Wednesdays)

the perfect thing for Summer!

OVER THE HEDGE

taking back the neighborhood

IN THEATERS MAY 19

ST. SMALL

Metropolis 2

1. Metropolis 2

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SHANGHAI CINEPLEX

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May 15, 2008 Priority	Year	Item	Start Date	Goal Date	Price Equivalent
Indochina	2008	1	6/15/08	1/30/09	13,173
Japan	2008	1	6/15/08	1/30/09	2,499
South America	2008	1	6/15/08	1/30/09	1,000
East Asia	2008	1	6/15/08	1/30/09	4,000
China	2008	1	6/15/08	1/30/09	1,000
Qatar	2008	1	6/15/08	1/30/09	40,000
India	2008	1	6/15/08	1/30/09	50,000
Indonesia	2008	1	6/15/08	1/30/09	50,000
South Africa	2008	1	6/15/08	1/30/09	100,000
South Korea	2008	1	6/15/08	1/30/09	13,000
Japan	2008	1	6/15/08	1/30/09	13,000
Indonesia	2008	1	6/15/08	1/30/09	13,000
China	2008	1	6/15/08	1/30/09	13,000
India	2008	1	6/15/08	1/30/09	13,000
Qatar	2008	1	6/15/08	1/30/09	13,000
South Africa	2008	1	6/15/08	1/30/09	13,000
South Korea	2008	1	6/15/08	1/30/09	13,000
Japan	2008	1	6/15/08	1/30/09	13,000
Indonesia	2008	1	6/15/08	1/30/09	13,000
China	2008	1	6/15/08	1/30/09	13,000
India	2008	1	6/15/08	1/30/09	13,000
Qatar	2008	1	6/15/08	1/30/09	13,000
South Africa	2008	1	6/15/08	1/30/09	13,000
South Korea	2008	1	6/15/08	1/30/09	13,000
Japan	2008	1	6/15/08	1/30/09	13,000
Indonesia	2008	1	6/15/08	1/30/09	13,000
China	2008	1	6/15/08	1/30/09	13,000
India	2008	1	6/15/08	1/30/09	13,000
Qatar	2008	1	6/15/08	1/30/09	13,000
South Africa	2008	1	6/15/08	1/30/09	13,000
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South Africa	2008	1</			

UCPB unit lends P2.2B to small coconut farmers

By David C. Swanson

ICF/CRI FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT Corp., the American affiliate of London-based Fluor Corp., has just more than \$2 billion in small, export-driven projects in March, breaking 230,000 small business contracts.

UDF Patience said in a statement yesterday that for the first quarter of this year alone, it released \$94.99 million in new loans to small business owners, bringing the total loans it has provided to the sector to \$1.1 billion.

GE Finance president, Edgardo Arreola told the new board members the nature and offshore financial activities of ULESA were small income earners, taking the number of households included by the company's credit

Loans benefiting close to 240,000 rural households



CEOs turn out to be good papers

CBP Pioneer was organized in 1976 in 1974 as a specialized

used to focus and speed up delivery opportunities, in which we create additional targeted, iterative opportunities to

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The company said it was investing in credit co-operatives in 42 of the country's 64 provinces, producing products, including a business-type credit co-operative lending program for the wives and daughters of small business owners.

The program was launched in 2011 and now accounts for 14 percent of total loans granted in EU.

That means that the small co-

most, however, were generating sufficient additional income from their livelihood activities to equal their loans.

Amoroso explained that the key to the credit program's success had been the cost being cut from being covered by

CMF Finance is strengthening the operational, technical, financial and marketing management capabilities of

CBP Figure has conducted a total of 874 training activities for 15,216 mem-

bers and officers of coconut farmer co-operatives, including courses in basic management, project development and management, financial analysis, and human resource management, and up-to-date technology transfer modules such as, space handling, cattle breeding and fattening, and maize, rice and coffee production.

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Mining seen generating 30,000 new jobs in Caraga, DTI says

RETIRED CITY...AN ESTIMATED 10,000 TO 15,000 more people will be employed in Chicago this year because of the entry of three major firms here, according to the Greater

DNV's Peter Brøgger Ragnan was one of the speakers from a scheduled to start its training operations this year was the Chinese-owned Zhejiang Huatong, which also was the

Polina was the daughter of Nikolai Polin, which suspended operations in 1988 due to excessive losses.

"The potential for employment is strong among students in between \$3,000 and \$4,000," Evans would add the business.

He said that with a commitment of \$5 billion, the operations of the firm would be able to make the purchase of the assets.

But despite being one of the country's most arid and barren, Congo remains among the most fertile nations.

Figueroa said he believed that the mining industry would eventually help alleviate poverty in the region.

The environmental research group Atlantic Stream for Research in Marine Life and, amongst others, of marine

While coal reserves were high, most people would be displaced by the mining operation, which would require the building of the mine, generating more jobs.

"When people, especially homebased workers in Canada, could be driven out of New South," Illinois Governor George Patton once said.

Most of the areas are inhabited by Indians.

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[illegible]


Philippine National Bank

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Philippine National Bank will be held on **May 26, 2006 at 8:00 a.m.** at the **Ballroom, Upper Lobby, Century Plaza Hotel, 599 Rockwell Center for St. Moritz, Manila.**

The Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Secretary's Report of Notice and Quorum
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2005 Annual Shareholders' Meeting held on **July 24, 2005**
4. Report of the President on the Results of Operations for the Year 2005
5. Approval of the 2006 Annual Report
6. Approval of the Amendment to the Amended By-Laws (transfer of the position, powers and duties of the Chairman of the Board, Sections 5.1 and 6.5, Article IV (Officers) to Section 5.4, Article IV (Officers) (Board of Directors)
7. Ratification of all Acts, Resolutions and Proceedings of the Board of Directors and Corporate Officers since the 2005 Annual Shareholders' Meeting
8. Election of Directors
9. Appointment of External Auditor
10. Other Matters
11. Adjournment

Minutes of the 2005 Annual Shareholders' Meeting as well as resolutions of the Board of Directors, from May 26, 2005 will be available for examination during office hours at the Office of the Corporate Secretary.

Only stockholders of record as of May 2, 2006 will be entitled to notice and vote at this meeting. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m.

If you cannot personally attend the meeting, you may designate your authorized representative by submitting a PROXY to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than 5:00 p.m. on May 25, 2006. Also proxy as required will be validated on May 26, 2006, 8:30 a.m., at the Office of the Stock Transfer Agent at Inland Bank Center, 1734 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Pasay City, Manila 24, 2006


R. C. FERNANDEZ
Corporate Secretary

Faces may be long forgotten but friendships last a lifetime. Rekindle a friendship built over the years. Join us as we look back and laugh at the old times.

Come and Reminisce!

FLASH 13th Year
ACK
nniversary

Join us as we continue our passion of serving you.

May 18, 2006 - Thursday
Fun begins at 3:00 pm

Balance-of-payments surplus seen at \$2.35B

Boosted by higher OFW remittances, bonds sale

By Davie C. Duran

THE PHILIPPINES' HIGHLY improved balance-of-payments surplus of about \$2.35 billion in April and \$1.1 billion in April on strong foreign exchange inflows, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

The surplus in March topped the first quarter 2008 surplus of \$2.1 billion, or more than three times the \$650 million deficit recorded in the same period last year.

The IMF's April report for April 2008, \$2.35 billion in April, much higher than the \$1.1 billion posted in the same month last year.

The authorities were buoyed by the change in net international reserves and had yet to include trade credit advances.

The IMF's April report on the foreign exchange transactions between the domestic economy and the rest of the world, including remittances, and trade credit advances, and the balance of trade, showed a surplus of \$2.35 billion in April, or more than three times the \$650 million deficit recorded in the same period last year.

The IMF's April report for April 2008, \$2.35 billion in April, much higher than the \$1.1 billion posted in the same month last year.

high prices, investment and remittance inflows.

In the meantime, the country's foreign exchange reserves also topped to a new high of \$36.9 billion in April.

The IMF has taken advantage of the strong dollar to build up its gross international reserves by buying dollars from the spot foreign exchange market.

The IMF's April report for April 2008, \$2.35 billion in April, much higher than the \$1.1 billion posted in the same month last year.

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THEY MAY IN BUSINESS THERE MAY PAY more later to partners, or other IMF, they say that without partner, was chosen to survive in the global age per law of the jungle.

For those partners to be able to pay, the IMF said that the IMF group had to be able to pay the IMF group.

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Business clash

BREAKTIME



Gerardo R. Rosal Jr.

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Changes in Alabang viaduct project design proposed

By Daniel C. Lucas

THE 14-KILOMETER viaduct project in Alabang, Metro Manila, is being redesigned to meet the needs of the Alabang Expressway project.

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RECENTLY started viaduct project

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Business groups seek law on perks for Clark locators

By Ronald W. Domingo

THE 2007 FOREIGN INVESTORS OF COMMERCE in the Philippines recently opposed legislation on the duty to the approval of the government to grant incentives to investors in Clark Special Economic Zone.

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Mining firm fears foreclosure of assets

By Daniel C. Lucas

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Semirara Q1 profit hits P270M

GLOBAL PRODUCER SEMIRARA MINING CORP. said its income after payment of taxes topped P270 million in the first quarter 2008.

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RFM posts P20M in net income

FOOD AND BEVERAGE FIRM RFM GROUP reported a net income of P20 million in the first quarter of 2008, a five-fold increase from the P4 million posted in the same period last year.

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